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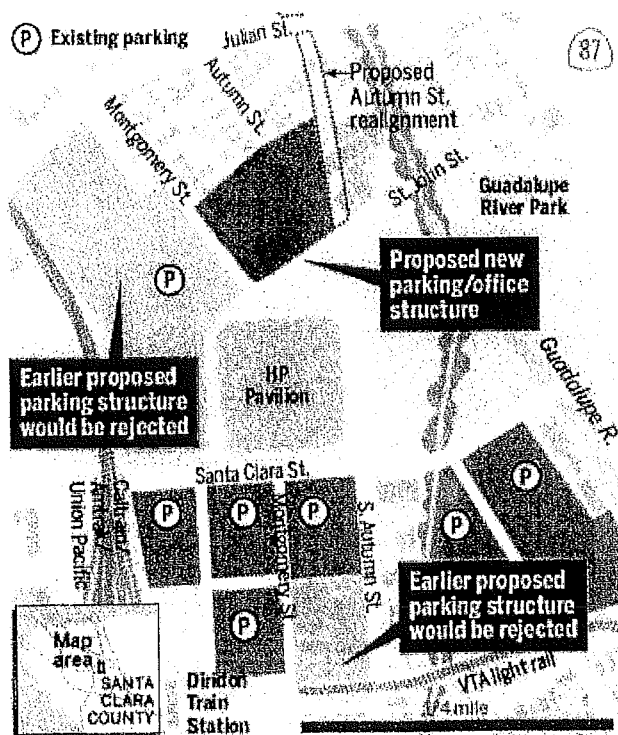
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San Jose, Sharks come to deal on downtown parking structure

By Tracy Seipel
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Source: City of San Jose

MERCURY NEWS

Ending months of frustrating discussions with city officials, the San Jose Sharks emerged victorious Tuesday after San Jose agreed to solve the team's concerns about traffic and parking from a proposed downtown ballpark.

The city would let the team build a four-level parking facility just north of HP Pavilion. San Jose, in turn, would oversee transportation improvements and traffic and parking plans to ease congestion around the Pavilion, the Major League Baseball park and Diridon Station.

"Because there are so many projects slated for this area, we felt it was critical that a traffic plan and parking plan and infrastructure plan all be put into place," said Greg Jamison, chief executive officer of Silicon

Valley Sports & Entertainment, which owns the Sharks and manages the arena where they play.

Mayor Chuck Reed said it was all a matter of timing.

"The Sharks wanted more certainty earlier about the things we would do to protect our building and their interests," he said of the Pavilion, which the city built and owns. The city also owns the Sharks' current 1,800-space parking lots, with revenues going both to the city's general fund and Sharks operations.

The City Council will discuss the proposal at its June 15 meeting.

Reed said he had been confident the city would resolve differences with the Sharks over a revised

environmental impact report for the ballpark site, which suggested no new downtown parking

was needed. Aside from the possibility of two major sporting venues, the Sharks and other critics noted plans to bring BART and high-speed rail — and accompanying vehicle traffic — to Diridon Station.

"I just thought we ought to try to figure out if we could come to common ground on what needed to be done," said Reed.

For months, the Sharks have been openly critical of the environmental report, saying they were particularly concerned about days when simultaneous events

would occur at the Pavilion and the stadium.

The Sharks have insisted that additional parking must be built in the area beyond the 13,847 available in downtown lots and garages. Last week, the team filed an appeal challenging the San Jose Planning Commission's decision to certify the environmental report.

City officials didn't disagree with the call for more parking — they just couldn't pay for it. San Jose's general operating fund faces a \$118 million deficit in the fiscal year that begins July 1, and the city's cash-strapped Redevelopment Agency just had to pay \$62 million to the state to help balance Sacramento's budget.

San Jose officials had suggested building a garage on the existing parking lot adjacent to the Pavilion so no land would have to be purchased. But Sharks management said that would disrupt operations and cost them revenue.

Under the new agreement, the team will have the right to buy the land and build the parking structure, both of which it would then own. A handful of properties will have to be acquired for the project, which might not go forward if the A's don't get permission from Major League Baseball to move to San Jose.

Jamison would not estimate the cost of the project, but he said the team might finance it by bringing in investors or selling bonds that would be repaid by parking revenues.

And if property owners refuse to sell to the Sharks, the city and Redevelopment Agency said they will invoke eminent domain, the legal process by which land can be taken from one private owner at market value and given to another.

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To read the city agreement, go to www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/Agenda/20100615/20100615ed.pdf

Parking stats

The proposed new parking garage near HP Pavilion would feature:

- Four levels, including one partially underground
- 400,000 square feet
- 1,072 net new stalls

Source: City of San Jose

2012 U.S. gymnastics trials heading for S.J.

The city has impressed the sport's officials with its handling of previous showcases

By Elliott Almond
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San Jose has been awarded the 2012 U.S. gymnastics trials, landing one of the premier events before the London Games while also increasing Silicon Valley's Olympic sports profile.

USA Gymnastics officials made the announcement Monday at a news conference at City Hall, saying the men's and women's trials are scheduled for June 28-July 1, 2012, at HP Pavilion, site of the 2007 Visa national championships.

The event will help put the South Bay on the Olympic sports map, considering that HP Pavilion also is the site of the 2012 figure-skating national championships. San Jose State was used as the "processing center" for

American Olympians sent to Beijing in '08.

But the city has never held an Olympic-related event of this magnitude. The gymnastics trials are considered one of the United States' three major selection meets, along with swimming and track and field.

"It is our crown jewel," USA Gymnastics president Steve Penny said. "You want to be working with partners who understand that, and who know how to handle the crown jewels."

San Jose officials won the bid because of their work on events such as the 2004 Olympic trials for rhythmic gymnastics and trampolining, the 2008 Pacific Rim gymnastics championships and the 2008 Titan Games involving a handful of Olympic sports.

Also, the Visa championships in '07 — a year before the Beijing Games — produced record ticket sales.

"That was a huge statement about the level of support we'd get from the community," Penny said. "What makes this great is when you've worked together a few times already, it makes it easier to take it to the next level."

The bid involved officials from the city, the San Jose Sports Authority and Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment, which runs the Sharks and HP Pavilion.

Greg Jamison, president of Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment, said bringing the trials to San Jose is a compliment to the city's ability to produce big events. HP Pavilion also will host NCAA tournament basketball games in 2013.

"We may be the 10th-largest city in the country, third

largest in the state, but we're not too big to get excited over something like this," Mayor Chuck Reed said.

USA Gymnastics plans to turn the Olympic trials into a community affair similar in feel to a Final Four or a Super Bowl.

"We're going to take a few tricks out of the Olympic Games bag and make it special for San Jose," Penny said.

The drama, however, will be focused on a gymnastics meet that comes less than a month before the opening ceremony in London. Coaches selected the previous two women's Olympic teams at a training camp after the trials.

With so little time between the trials and the Olympics, it's possible the full team will be named after competing in San Jose.

While 2012 selection procedures haven't been finalized, Penny said, "We under-

stand the value of selecting as many athletes as we can at the trials."

Some of the contenders might have local connections as Stanford and Cal have become powers in men's gymnastics. Cal's Kyle Buntnifong and Glen Ishino, and Stanford's Alex Buscaglia, understand the value of the meet for aspiring Bay Area gymnasts.

"There's something about going to an event in person that motivates people," he said.

When he was 13, Vidmar drove to Berkeley with his Southern California coach and club teammates to watch the 1976 men's trials at Cal.

"Four years later, I was the U.S. all-around champion and made my first Olympic team," he recalled.

U.S. women have won more Olympic and world medals than any other country with 50. Romania is sec-

ond, with 29. The United States is the only country to win team medals in men's and women's gymnastics at the 2004 and '08 Games.

Peter Vidmar, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and now chairman of USA Gymnastics' board of directors, understands the value of the meet for aspiring Bay Area gymnasts.

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From: "Scott Emmert" <semmert@svse.net>
Subject: **SHARKS ICE RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE**
Date: June 11, 2010 1:33:27 PM PDT
To: "Everyone" <EveryoneDL@svse.net>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Relations
June 11, 2010
5711

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408/999-

sjsharks.com

SHARKS ICE RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

**Ice Skating Institute Acknowledges Sharks Ice Employees for Their Work at the
2010 ISI Ice Arena and Conference Trade Show**

SAN JOSE – The Ice Skating Institute (ISI) recognized Sharks Ice employees Jon Gustafson, Candy Goodson, David Hicks for their work at the ISI Ice Arena and Conference Trade show in Las Vegas on June 1-4, 2010.

Gustafson was awarded Arena Owner/Operator of the Year as the General Manager of Sharks Ice at San Jose. The award is presented to the owner or operator of an ISI Administrative member facility who has demonstrated superior leadership and skills in facility management and operation, and has utilized ISI programs, events and resources to increase participation, improve quality of services and enhance productivity.

Goodson was awarded Woman of the Year by ISI as the Director of Skating at Sharks Ice at San Jose; the award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Ice Skating Institute and its programs and purposes during the past year.

Hicks, while not receiving a specific award from ISI, was also acknowledged for his work at the Oakland Ice Center as their skating director.

ISI was founded in 1959 as a nonprofit organization for owners, operators and developers of ice skating facilities. ISI has become the industry trade association for progressive ice skating facilities, managers, coaching professionals, suppliers and individual skaters.

Sharks Ice at San Jose is hosts many large events at their facility every year. In 2009, Sharks Ice hosted the ISI World Recreational Team Championships from July 27 – August 1. The World Recreational Team Championships is the largest ISI national competition event each year. In addition, Sharks Ice also played host to the CANLAN Canadian Adult Hockey Championships in May 2009, the North American Hockey League Prospect Tournament in February 2010, and the USA Hockey Pacific District Championships in March 2010.

About Sharks Ice at San Jose

Sharks Ice at San Jose is the official practice facility of the NHL's San Jose Sharks. The nearly 170,000 square-foot facility accommodates ice hockey, figure skating, broomball, curling, speed skating, ice dancing, and public skating. Sharks Ice at San Jose, along with Sharks Ice at Fremont and the Oakland Ice Center operated by Sharks Ice currently holds the largest number of Adult USA Hockey participants of any facility in the nation (more than 3,000). Sharks Ice at San Jose features a Pro Shop, large meeting and party spaces, as well as Stanley's Sports Bar, a full service restaurant that overlooks three of the four rinks. Sharks Ice at San Jose is located at 1500 South 10th Street in San Jose, California, at the intersection of Alma and Tenth Street. It is the largest indoor ice facility west of the Mississippi River and is one of only seven rink facilities in the United States that currently operates at least four NHL-sized rinks. For more information, visit www.sharksice.com